

Congratulations on your first eight-five years!

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2009 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2009 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2009 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA (Ret), Hon. Eduardo Aguirre, Imam Shamsi Ali, Dr. Kaveh Alizadeh, Robert V. Allegrini, Hon. Victor G. Atiyeh, Archbishop Vicken N. Aykazian, Sir Julian Bachynsky, Ralph M. Bahna, George S. Barrett, Edward J. Bergman, Hamid Biglari, Carolyn A. Blashek, Paul F. Boulos, PhD, Lt.Gen. Ted F. Bowlds, USAF, CAPT Patrick C. Burns, USN, Dr. Samia E. Burton, Otto B.

Candies, John J. Casey, Ali Cayir, Sant Singh Chatwal, Dr. Walter R. Chitwood, Jr., Joseph Ilhawn Cho, Edward T. Cloonan, Duane E. Collins, David F. D'Alessandro, Shiv C. Dass, Kiran R. Desai, Robert D. Donno, Rayna Dubose, Emilio Estefan, Jr., Charles Fazzino, Sean T. Flanagan, John S. Gonsalves, James B. Hayes, CAPT Gregory P. Hitchen, USCG, W. Andrew Hodge, MD, Forough B. Hosseini, Susan Pien Hsu, PhD, Taffy A. Jowdy, James M. Kalustian, Rabbi Alvin Kass, Fred Kavli, Lisa Kazor, Kevin A. Kistler, Carol N. Lambos, Esq., BG James B. Laster, USMC, Leon Y. Lee, Oh Young Lee, Sandra Lee, Francine A. LeFrak, Nooshin Malakzad, Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, George D. Martin, Hon. Grace Meng, Thomas L. Mills, Esq., Joseph H. Moglia, Dr. Reza Momeni, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, Tavit O. Najarian, ScD, John F. Nickoll, Michael K. O'Malley, Rev. Timothy O'Neill, George Pagoumian, Young J. Paik, Hon. Mary Mitzi Purdue, Moises Perez-Martinez, Natale A. Picco, Jr. John Podesta, Linda Ann Pope, William A. Pope, David M. Puckett, Phil T. Pulaski, Hon. Bijan Rafiekian, Maj. Dan Rooney, USAF, Gaetano G. Scavone, Salman T. Sesi, Esq., Dr. Jatin P. Shah, Liu Tee Shuh, Brian J. Smith, Col. Stephen Smith, USA, Steven N. Stein, Carol K. Strauss, Chester A. Szarejko, Oscar S. Tatosian, Joseph J. Thoams, DDS, William H. Tilley, Lenny Tilman, Lana Todorovich, Chiling Tong, Pauline A. Turley, Anthony M. Valletta, Kathleen Waldron, PhD, Kevin M. Wall, The Venerable Lama Pema Wangdak, Jeffrey N. Watanabe, Esq., Gary E. Weksler, Sally Tsui Wong-Avery

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARILYN GIORDANO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marilyn Giordano, a wonderful woman who recently lost her courageous battle with colon cancer.

I came to know Marilyn through her work with the American Vitiligo Research Foundation. Vitiligo is a condition in which one's skin loses pigment and becomes discolored. It is a disease that can easily destroy the spirit of those it afflicts. Marilyn cared passionately about people with Vitiligo, especially children who are often not emotionally prepared to deal with its psychological affects. Marilyn dedicated her life to helping these precious children deal with their condition the best they could.

Marilyn's friend Stella Pavlides, the founder of the American Vitiligo Research Foundation, shared with me the courage with which Marilyn battled colon cancer. Stella said that Marilyn never lost faith that she would survive, refrained from complaining or asking why she was going through such an ordeal, and remained optimistic and positive until the very end, which came peacefully on April 29. That sounds just like the Marilyn I came to know.

Stella has asked me to become an advocate for raising awareness about colon cancer in the days since Marilyn's death. She correctly points out that colon cancer is one of

the most deadly forms of cancer in its advanced stages, though it also is one of the most treatable in its earliest stages. I was pleased that the House passed H. Con. Res 60 earlier this year, which supports the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March and emphasizes the importance of early detection and screening of this disease.

I also recently cosponsored H.R. 1189, the Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Act, which would establish a colorectal cancer screening program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provide grants to states for colorectal cancer screening and treatment programs. I believe the House should pass this vitally important bill to improve the detection and treatment of this deadly disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to honor Marilyn's life by passing H.R. 1189 and improving the detection and treatment of this disease. Although her earthly life has ended much too soon, I am certain that her legacy will live on in the lives that will be saved by raising awareness about this treatable but deadly disease, and in the children with Vitiligo whose lives she has forever changed for the better.

HONORING KENNEDY PATTERSON FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Kennedy Patterson from Marietta, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

For the past year, Kennedy has attended the Air Force Academy Preparatory School. Kennedy has worked very hard during his year in prep school and the results speak for themselves. Before the prep school, Kennedy attended Marietta High School where he was a member of the Air Force JROTC. Kennedy is an Eagle Scout and has a black belt in Taekwondo. He has been recognized with the Admiral's Cup Award, the Aviator Wings Award, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze ROTC Medal, the American Legion Military Excellence Medal, and the American Legion Silver Medal.

Kennedy Patterson is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Kennedy as well as his parents, James and Nell Patterson, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Kennedy that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately on June 8, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1736, H.R. 1709, and H. Res. 420. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

Had I been present for rollcall No. 311, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1736, International Science and Technology Cooperation Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 312, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1709, STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 313, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 420, Celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day, I would have voted "aye."

IN SUPPORT OF DR. ROBERT L. MILLIS

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Robert L. Millis who is retiring as director of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. During his tenure, Dr. Millis oversaw the Lowell Observatory—one of only a handful of private, independent research observatories in the United States—quadruple its staff, increase visitation tenfold, and construct major new facilities including the Steele Visitor Center, the McAllister Public Observatory, the John M. Wolff instrument facility, and, most recently, the 4.2-meter Discovery Channel Telescope now under construction in Northern Arizona.

As a researcher at Lowell, Dr. Millis concentrated on smaller bodies of the Solar System: asteroids, comets, planetary satellites, Pluto, and objects orbiting on the edges of our Solar System. Dr. Millis was a member of several two-person teams that discovered the rings of Uranus, noted periodic variation in the activity of Comet Halley, and proved the existence of an extended atmosphere on Pluto. He also led a multi-institutional team—the Deep Ecliptic Survey—in an eight-year endeavor to explore the region of the Solar System beyond the orbit of Neptune. That venture resulted in the discovery of approximately half the currently known objects in the area known as the Kuiper Belt.

Dr. Millis will remain an active pillar of the Flagstaff community. He will work with Flagstaff-area business leaders committed to improving the greater Flagstaff area and the State of Arizona by bringing together talent and resources to provide leadership on economic and quality of life issues in the region. I wish Dr. Millis the best of luck and look forward to seeing the greater Flagstaff community benefit from the energy and leadership that Dr. Millis provided to the Lowell Observatory for the past 40 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 2009, I mistakenly cast a "YES" vote on H.R. 2751, the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act. I am submitting this statement for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to clarify that I am opposed to H.R. 2751 and had intended to vote "no." The bill authorizes \$4 billion of new spending. This is on top of the \$85 billion American taxpayers have provided to help "restructure" the auto industry already. Just yesterday, auto-parts suppliers asked President Obama's auto task force for an additional \$8 to \$10 billion in federal aid. In addition, a similar program instituted in Germany ended up costing three times more than originally anticipated. Also, the legislation requires dealers to remove "clunkers" from the market through salvage, reducing the amount of preowned supply. Families that still cannot afford a new automobile, even with the voucher, will face rising prices in the used car market during the current recession at a time when affordability is an even greater issue. Additionally, under the bill, the DOT is required to promulgate many of the regulations to implement the program within 30 days. This grants too much authority to the executive branch to enact a new \$4 billion dollar program. For these and other reasons, I am opposed to H.R. 2751, and I intended to vote "no" on rollcall 314.

HONORING NICHOLAS JACKSON
FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Nicholas Jackson from Acworth, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Nick attends Harrison High School where he has a 3.47 Grade Point Average. Nick is a four year varsity letter winner for the Harrison football and the track and field teams and has proven himself a leader—being selected Captain of the football team on multiple occasions. He was named to the Cobb County Touchdown Club All County football team, the Marietta Daily Journal 2nd team All County football team, and was an honorable mention Atlanta Journal-Constitution All Northwest Georgia football player. Nick brings his love of sports into community service, as well, annually volunteering for the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's football camp as well as the Harrison High School Community Service Day. Nick's athletic accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by the Air Force Academy—earning him a letter of recruitment from the head coach of the Falcons.

Nicholas Jackson is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Nick as well as his parents, Michael and Colleen, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Nick that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICK HURLEY

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Patrick Hurley, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Patrick's leadership during the 2008–2009 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club, the community of Carlsbad and the mission of Rotary. During his tenure, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club sponsored Interact, a youth service club; RYLA, a youth awareness leadership conference; a Christmas party and provided meals and gifts to needy elementary school children; cosponsored the Oktoberfest fundraiser that benefited the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center and the Carlsbad Boys and Girls Club and completed a very successful golf tournament which funded scholarships for Carlsbad high school students; provided mentors for the City Stuff Program, a program that exposed school children to the workings of city government; promoted literacy by providing dictionaries for English and Spanish speaking elementary school children; provided over nine hundred books to the Jefferson Elementary School students, and provided financial support to our military personnel and their families.

In addition, under President Patrick Hurley's leadership the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary and its membership completed a number of other projects. These projects included providing volunteers to help maintain public and private property, provide food and clothing for the needy and homeless, and assist in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau, and through the Gazebo project, a city landmark structure was refurbished and relocated for public enjoyment.

In the international arena, under President Hurley's leadership, a team of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarians joined with others and traveled to Mexico to build a house for a needy family: a badly needed ambulance was provided and refurbished for the City of Mazatlan, Mexico, and through our support of the Paul Harris Foundation, we co-sponsored numerous other humanitarian projects all over the world including the effort to eradicate polio world wide, and providing funding for the Micro-banking project enabling third world countries to develop entrepreneurial skills and become self sufficient.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Patrick Hurley. Without question, his leadership and fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.